

**Department of Public Works and Transportation
Montgomery County, Maryland**

DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES



SORRT staff teach pre-school children at NIH how to recycle.

***MONTHLY REPORT
MARCH 2003***



Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

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OVERVIEW

Tonnage at a Glance

The following table shows key material flows during the current month, fiscal year to date (FY Total), and current calendar month in the two prior fiscal years. (County fiscal year 2003 began July 1, 2002.)

FACILITY	Mar FY 03	FY 03 Total	Mar FY 02	Mar FY 01
Materials Recovery Facility ⁽¹⁾	7,496 tons	63,719 tons	6,457 tons	6,233 tons
Brunswick Landfill Facility ⁽²⁾	16,744 tons	164,633 tons	17,747 tons	13,010 ⁽⁴⁾ tons
Resource Recovery Facility ⁽³⁾	53,943 tons	447,904 tons	47,954 tons	43,531 tons
Yard Trim Compost Facility	6,192 tons	59,700 tons	1,499 tons	2,873 tons

⁽¹⁾MRF tons reported are outgoing.

⁽²⁾This category only addresses waste sent to the landfill for disposal. It does not include rubble that is recycled.

⁽³⁾RRF tonnage refers to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here.

⁽⁴⁾ Does not include 3,122 tons of ash sent to American Ash Recycling pilot program in March 2001.

Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation – During March, program staff:

- Processed 165 changes in the TXA 170 system;
- Processed vacancy refunds payable in March;
- Updated the monthly contractors reports;
- Updated collection contractor service unit counts;
- Updated street listing maps;
- Continued analysis on nonresidential properties;
- Continued to update the property tax database;
- Tabulated tonnages and entered data from the Solid Waste and Collector/Hauler Reports for the period of July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002;
- Continued to receive and tabulate Processor and Business Ton Reports for Calendar Year 2002;
- Conducted Solid Waste and Collector/Hauler Audits for the last six month period;
- Generated hauler credit account invoices for March 2003 totaling \$1,312,408.46; an increase of \$91,751 compared to March 2002;
- Increased collateral held on five credit accounts by an aggregate \$72,882;
- Conducted analyses related to rate setting and management issues;
- Assisted, as needed, with the ongoing solid waste revenue bond refinancing project; and otherwise
- Assisted, as needed, with budget processes.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES

Facilities Implementation Group – FIG met on March 11th at the Gothic Barn. Ten FIG Members, four County staff, three contract staff and two area residents were in attendance. Topics discussed included Reforestation and the Draft Waste Disposal Permit for the Site 2 Landfill.

The next FIG meeting will be held on May 13th at the Gothic Barn.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Five SWAC members met with the County Executive (CE) on February 11, 2003. SWAC's monthly meeting was held Tuesday, March 18th. Eleven SWAC members, ten County staff and four guests were in attendance. SWAC received a presentation on the CE's Recommended FY 2004 Operating Budget for the Division of Solid Waste Services', County's tip fee, and systems benefit charge

COLLECTIONS

Refuse – Refuse collections went as scheduled for the month of March.

Recycling – Mixed paper tonnages for the residential program during the past 52 weeks are as follows:

CURRENT PERIOD	POUNDS PER HOUSEHOLD	CORRESPONDING PERIOD PREVIOUS YEAR
3/18/02-4/12/02	9.73	9.87
4/15/02-5/10/02	9.81	9.68
5/13/02-6/07/02	9.58	10.19
6/10/02-7/05/02	9.21	9.21
7/08/02-8/02/02	8.74	8.62
8/05/02-8/30/02	9.24	9.10
9/02/02-9/27/02	10.15	10.08
9/30/02-10/25/02	10.45	11.10
10/28/02-11/22/02	11.04	10.83
11/25/02-12/20/02	11.74	11.52
12/23/02-1/17/03	9.75	9.58
1/20/03-2/14/03	8.83	9.01
2/17/03-3/14/03	8.94	9.02

Customer Service – DSWS received 9,512 incoming calls and 165 follow-up calls were made for quality check; 186 customer service questions and 352 blue bin orders were received via e-mail and handled by the Customer Service Staff. Additionally, 734 blue bins were delivered.

Contractor Performance – During the month of March, DSWS received 843 complaints; 71 less complaints than March 2002, which numbered 914.

We have experienced problems with yard trim collection in Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) areas. As the weather warms up, seasonal adjustments to the resources provided for this function are required by all contractors; WMI has had a problem with both drivers and trucks. Staff is working with WMI to correct the problems and assure timely collections.

Enforcement Actions – Three citations were issued for violations of the County's Solid Waste Laws:

One citation	Collection without a valid collector's license	\$500
One citation	Collection without a valid collector's tag attached	\$500
One citation	Solid wastes stored outside storage containers	\$500

Five NOV's were issued for violations of the County's Solid Waste Laws:

Two NOV's	Deposit solid wastes upon the property of another
Two NOV's	Dump, deposit or leave solid wastes
One NOV	Stored solid wastes outside storage containers

Web Site - The following is information gathered from the Montgomery County Solid Waste web site through the month of March:

List Memberships	
HHW Announcements	318
Holiday Reminder List	2,719
Newsletter Helper	46

Usage Counters – March 2003	
Number of Visits	3,560
Number of Page Views	5,888
Among the most frequently visited pages were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling • Trash • HHW • Transfer Station 	

E-Mail – March 2003	
Top Issues :	83
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHW • SORRT • Yard Trim 	
Blue Bins	352

Comments we received in March included:

- Just wanted you to know that the special pickup of the boxes happened at 7:00 a.m. this morning. Thanks again for the great service. Now I know why I live in Montgomery County.

- Thank you so much for your informative e-mail. In this day and age of people throwing away or ignoring letters of inquiry, your response is refreshing. You were very informative and you gave me an avenue of approach to resolve my issues. I can't thank you enough!
- It (the online collection day lookup feature) worked great! It took me 30 seconds to find out what day recycling is picked up, starting from entering "Montgomery County recycle" in Google.
- I live across the street from (resident's name), and my yard waste **WAS NOT** picked up as scheduled. We were told that it would be picked up on Friday. Voice mail was full. Please forward Doug Duncan's home address so that we can put our recycled yard trash in front of his house!!! Thank you.
- Last week, the neighborhood put the yard stuff out on Thursday as scheduled; no show. So, by Saturday a.m., most of us pulled the bags back into the garage only to see the truck breeze thru Saturday afternoon. This week, same thing, only it is now Sunday morning and the stuff is still sitting there. If you really want us to stay with the program, then WE need YOUR cooperation.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Computer Recycling – Approximately 37 tons of computers were recycled in March.

Mercury (Hg)-Free Campaign – The Hg-Free campaign will continue into spring 2003.

Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities – The Green Man Show continues to air daily on Cable Channel 6. A complete schedule for the program is available online at <http://greenmanshow.com>, with a link to the show in simulcast streaming video format. Beginning April 1st, past GreenMan Shows will be available as video-on-demand, allowing web users to view past programs in addition to forthcoming Eco-Minutes. Preparing a special 15-minute edition of the program to address grasscycling, updating the previous video developed in the mid-1990's. The new program may also become available in DVD format for distribution to County libraries.

The Green Man column with recommendations on alternative (resource conserving) landscaping continues to appear in several Maryland editions of The Gazette Newspapers and on the web at both <http://www.gazette.net/columnists/> and <http://greenman.askdep.com>. Preparing a special three-part series on grasscycling and lawn care to appear throughout April.

Developing two new 12-page publications: Grasscycling: The Easy Way to a Healthy Lawn; and Composting: Developing a Sense of Humus. Both will appear in April for countywide distribution.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – There were two HHW events in March. Events were held at the Transfer Station on March 2nd and March 16th. The second event was originally scheduled for Silver Spring Parking Lot #2; however, required authorization documents could not be obtained to allow the event to occur at this location.

Small Quantity Generator Ecowise Program – One Small Quantity Generator (SQG)/Ecowise event was held on March 12, 2003.

AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Resource Recovery Facility (RRF): CEMS Tracking of RRF Operations – The Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS) continued to track the percent load, certain engineering parameters and emissions of all three units. The CEMS indicated that units 1 and 2 operated until approximately 5 a.m. on March 3rd when the CEMS started showing emissions from unit 3 indicating that the unit was being brought online. Thereafter, all 3 units operated until approximately 3 p.m. on March 11th when a spike in Carbon Monoxide (CO) emissions for unit 1. Inquiries with Covanta staff indicated that the unit was brought offline for scheduled maintenance. Thereafter, units 2 and 3 operated until March 14th. At approximately 11 p.m. on March 14th, a CO spike for unit 3 was noticed. Discussions with Covanta staff indicated that the unit was brought offline for baghouse maintenance scheduled for the last week of March. Subsequently, only unit 2 operated until approximately 11 p.m. on March 17th when a CO spike for unit 2 was noticed indicating that this unit was also being brought offline. It was understood from Covanta that this unit was scheduled for maintenance. So, all 3 units were shutdown until March 19th. The CEMS started showing emissions for unit 2 around midnight on March 19th, and for unit 3 around midnight on March 20th. Thereafter, units 1 and 2 operated until March 22nd when unit 3 was also brought back online. Thereafter, the CEMS recorded emissions and other parameters from all 3 units until the end of the month. During the baghouse maintenance work for unit 3 on March 18th, elevated opacity levels were noticed. The 6-minute average turned out to be 22%. However, the Title V Air Permit allows "No Greater than 40%" during control equipment maintenance. Therefore, the opacity spike does not constitute an exceedance of the Title V Air Permit.

On March 10th, Covanta performed the monthly "Opacity Test" for March. The opacity test is a requirement under Title V of the RRF Air Permit. As in past tests, the opacity readings were 0% compared to the Title V Permit limit of 10%.

In the first week of March, the set of four CEMS CD-ROM's were updated to include CEMS data up to February 28, 2003. Copies of the CD's were placed in the Rockville and Poolesville libraries.

FIG-SWAC Air Quality Subcommittee – The Air Quality Subcommittee met March 12th. The RRF Health Risk Study Update prepared by ENSR was discussed. The Subcommittee members made several comments and suggestions. These comments, together with

DSWS' changes, were mailed to ENSR. Currently, ENSR is revising the report and is expected to submit the revised version to DSWS by April 15th.

Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility: Leachate Evaporation Technology –

For the entire month of March, the leachate evaporator remained shutdown. The backup flare operated throughout the month.

Contracts and RFP's – The Office of Procurement approved the selection of ENSR for conducting the RRF Multi-Media Programs. A draft contract was prepared and submitted to the Office of the County Attorney for review. A new contract needs to be in place by April 25th to ensure the Spring Air Monitoring Program can commence before the end of April.

The Office of Procurement is currently reviewing the RFP for the Meteorological Monitoring Program and is expected to advertise the RFP in April. The existing contract expires on June 16th.

Because of poor contractual performance of the Bentech project, a meeting is scheduled with Bentech for April 8th to discuss termination of the contract.

RECYCLING

Public Outreach – The Plan Update to Achieve 50 Percent Recycling has been transmitted from the County Executive to the County Council. Work has begun on a brochure that traces what happens to recyclable items once a person puts it in a recycling bin.

Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction – Staff continued to perform on-site visits of businesses in March and resolved several complaints. Staff began conducting field audits to verify the annual reports submitted by businesses. Staff began work on several projects including developing a business recycling informational guidebook, updating the Business Recycling Regulation Handbook, and preparing for Earth Month outreach activities and Recycling Awareness Week in May. Staff participated in several outreach events including presentations to NIH pre-school children, two religious organizations, and several businesses in Kensington, reaching more than 250 people.

Multi-Family Recycling – Staff continued to provide on-site technical assistance and outreach to multi-family property managers. Annual recycling reports continue to be received and are being processed for accuracy and completeness. Benchmarking is being completed at the six multi-family properties participating in the blue bag pilot program; bags have been coded and are being delivered to the properties.

Mixed Paper Recycling – Existing educational materials are being distributed to residents at events.

Volunteer Activities – Staff is developing the next issue of the Recycleletter to be distributed in May. Items to be included are grasscycling tips, reuse organizations and "Clean Ways to Handle Dirty Jobs." Volunteers are being solicited to take over tour

responsibilities at the MRF. Twenty-seven student volunteers provided over 90-hours of office assistance handling various projects for the upcoming Earth Day celebration to be held April 26th. Planning for Earth Day is heating up and the search for volunteers is going well. We have students signed up as well as volunteers from environmental organizations.

PILOT PROGRAMS

Mixed Paper Pilot – The March totals for the Potomac toter program are:

3/05/03	*	lbs. per house
3/12/03	15,260	18.84 lbs. per house
3/19/03	15,240	18.81 lbs. per house
3/26/03	*	lbs. per house
Total	30,500	18.83 lbs. Average

*Waste Management could not produce an isolated weight ticket.

The current average weight per house for the 74 weeks of recorded information of the toter program is 19.97 lbs. as opposed to 13.99 lbs. per house prior to the program. This represents a 42.74% increase in the mixed paper capture rate since the start of the toter program.

FACILITY ACTIVITIES

Resource Recovery Facility – Of the 53,943 tons processed in March, 127 tons were reject material from the Compost Facility. Trash deliveries have risen to above 12,000 tons/week, with a record week of 12,991 for the last week of the month. Planned outages were performed on unit 1 from March 11-19, unit 3 from March 14-21 and a complete plant shut down on March 18th. Standard semi-annual outages were performed on units 1 and 3 with no unexpected findings and all routine work was performed. A complete bag change out was done in unit 3 baghouse. During the entire plant shutdown, planned work was performed on the common systems throughout the facility. The plant shutdown lasted 26.5 hours. There were no unscheduled outages during the month.

There were no significant safety incidents during the month. The facility continues to operate with no OSHA recordable accidents in over 1095 days (three years OSHA free).

There were no generation emergencies issued by Mirant during the month of March.

There was a need to purchase power from March 17-19 due to the full plant outage.

There were no reportable air or water quality environmental excursions during the month of March.

The following environmental activities occurred:

- Submitted the 2002 emissions certification report to EPA/MDE;
- Submitted the March 2003 Potable Water Monthly Operating Report to MDE;

- Submitted the Refuse Disposal Permit renewal application to MDE. A draft permit was received from MDE for review;
- Submitted The Drinking Water Inorganic Self-Monitoring Report for 2003 to MDE;
- Performed the monthly visible emission (Method 9) observation required by the RRF's Title V permit.

Materials Recovery Facility – Approximately 1,844 tons of commingled material were shipped out, and approximately 5,652 tons of mixed paper were loaded out and transferred to the Office Paper Systems processing facility. The open outside area where old equipment was stored during last year's change to the new processing system was reseeded and mulched. A fluorescent light panel was installed above the control panel for the equipment to provide better illumination. New exit signs with brighter illumination were installed at the building's exits. The new office for the operations manager was installed at the baler control platform to provide him better overall sight of the plant's operations. A contract was awarded to Tito Contractors to install floor drains in the processing area, beginning in April.

Oaks Landfill – SCS Engineers ordered materials and equipment to perform planned improvements to the landfill gas system.

The proposed contract awardee for subdividing the leachate storage lagoons to facilitate long-term maintenance continued the preparation and submittal of post-award documents such as insurance, minority status, geomembrane manufacturer and installer qualifications, etc. required by bid documents.

Gude Landfill – A fence, damaged by a traffic accident, was repaired along Gude Drive. A claim for repair costs was sent to the driver's insurance carrier.

Beantown Dump – Preliminary arrangements were made with SCS Field Services to begin the second, and final, phase of installing landfill gas vent wells at the former Beantown Dump Site sometime in mid-April.

Transfer Station – During March, Covanta shipped via rail 51,913 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the RRF; 6,257 more tons than shipped in March 2002. After the unusually long and cold winter, waste volumes started coming in at record levels once the weather improved.

Construction began for a roof to cover the entire Household Hazardous Waste temporary storage facility. This will enable an expansion of service in the future.

Covanta requested bids for miscellaneous road repairs. Covanta worked with the intermodal container vendor on modifications to the containers that they delivered.

Litter was collected by MES along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

The inbound radiation detectors had 30 alarms in March 2003, including 7 false alarms (alarms that could not be re-verified) - all of the valid alarms were identified as medical

isotopes with short half-lives, including some cases where the driver had undergone recent medical treatment, and were accepted.

Site 2 Landfill Properties – The lease for the Chiswell property is being negotiated. Comments on the draft Site 2 landfill refuse disposal permit were submitted to MDE.

Yard Trim Compost Facility – In March, the Yard Trim Compost Facility received 6,192 tons of leaves for composting. The facility has received 59,700 tons of material through March 2003 compared to 45,994 tons through February 2002. The increase resulted from material being wet; leaf collecting had to be performed with a loader rather than vacuuming. Projection for the fiscal year is 78,300 tons of material.

Staff is working on a contingency plan to identify other facilities to accept the material in the event that we reach 77,000 tons in a fiscal year.

One hundred and twenty-seven (127) tons of debris were sent to the RRF.

Two thousand six hundred and forty-seven (2,647) cubic yards of Leafgro were shipped to distributors.

Bagging Operation – In March, 37,762 bags of Leafgro were shipped to distributors. (each bag is 1.5 cubic ft. weighing 45 lbs).

Fire Hydrant Installation – KCE Engineering has certified that the project will not impact wetlands in the area. Work will start the first week of April.

Linden Farm Renovations – Renovation work is complete, including painting of the barns and silos. Roof repair work on the Gothic Barn has been delayed due to inclement weather conditions.

Out-of-County Haul

Brunswick County, Virginia - During the month of March, approximately 13,412 tons of ash residue and approximately 3,332 tons of nonprocessable waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. (BWMF) Landfill in Brunswick County, Virginia. Approximately 113 tons of rubble were recycled this month at Clean Earth in Hagerstown, MD. Five additional chassis and containers are on order and will be delivered by April 15th. These will minimize future equipment shortages during peak periods of nonprocessable waste generation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Important Telephone Numbers

General information on solid waste	240-777-6400
Customer Service	240-777-6410
Transfer Station	301-840-2370 (County Office) 301-590-1032 (Covanta)
Materials Recovery Facility	301-840-2701 (County Office) 301-417-1447 (MES)
Resource Recovery Facility	240-777-6494 (County Office) 301-916-3031 (Covanta)
Yard Trim Compost Facility	301-428-8185 (MES)
Internet for DSWS	www.mcrecycles.org

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

TOPIC OR FACILITY	
Latest Recycling Rate Reported in Montgomery County	37.4% (FY02)
Recycling Goal	45% by December 2002 50% by December 2004
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)	Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 TPD on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr).
Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF)	Operations limited to receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY02 tons received- 63,634
# Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors	84,959
# Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection	202,411
Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc.	June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAR	American Ash Recycling, Inc.
APC	Air Pollution Control
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
BFI	Browning Ferris Industries
CDL	Commercial Driver's License
CEMS	Continuous Emissions Monitoring System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
CSX	Chesapeake Transportation Systems
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DFS	Division of Facilities and Services
DNR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIG	Facilities Implementation Group
GFA	Gross Floor Area
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
IFB	Invitation For Bid
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LFG	Landfill Gas
LTTS	Leachate Thermal Treatment System
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
MCR	Maximum Continuous Rating
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
Mg/l	Milligrams per liter
M-NCPPC	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MWh	Mega Watt hours
NEA	Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority
NOV	Notice of Violation
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NTP	Notice to Proceed
OLAC	Oaks Landfill Advisory Commission
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OPS	Office Paper Systems
PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RFP	Request for Proposal
ROL	Reduced Operating Level
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SCA	Sugarloaf Citizens Association
SHA	State Highway Administration
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SDAT	State Department of Assessments and Taxation
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TXA170	Computer Interface Program (Property Account Database)
TCLP	Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure
TPD	Tons Per Day
TRRAC	Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums
UT	Ultra-sonic Testing
WM	Waste Management